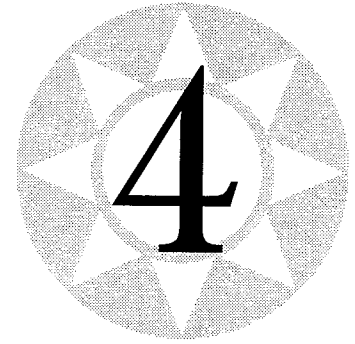


Pruning



Answers to review questions

- 1. List three or four reasons why you would want to prune your plants.**
 - To maintain plant health (*pp. 81, 83–84*)
 - To improve the quality of flowers, fruit, foliage, and stems (*pp. 81, 84*)
 - To restrict growth (*pp. 81, 84*)
 - To train a plant (*pp. 81, 83*)
- 2. Unsanitary pruning tools can spread disease organisms from diseased plants to healthy plants. How can you prevent this problem?**

By sterilizing your pruning tools with alcohol or a mild bleach solution after each cut (*pp. 83–84*)
- 3. Briefly describe the two types of pruning cuts and the purpose of each.**
 - *Heading cuts* involve cutting off part of a shoot or limb. They increase the number of new shoots, stimulate new growth, and stiffen branches (*pp. 85–86*).
 - *Thinning cuts* remove undesired wood, resulting in a more open plant (*p. 86*).
- 4. Mr. Smith is anxious to remove a diseased 2.5"-diameter branch from his oak tree. He plans to use a chain saw and make one cut on the branch, flush with the trunk. What are the potential problems with his plan?**
 - A chain saw is not a proper tool for pruning (*p. 85*).
 - When pruning a branch greater than 1.5" in diameter, he needs to make three cuts (*p. 87*).
 - The final cut should be flush with the branch collar, *not* the trunk (*p. 87*).
- 5. What is one of the most important factors to consider when pruning a flowering tree or shrub?**

The time of year to prune, based on whether the plant flowers on old wood or new wood (*p. 97*)
- 6. Should all fruit trees be pruned the same, regardless of the kind of tree (e.g., apple vs. peach)?**

No, different kinds of fruit trees require different pruning techniques (*pp. 89–96*).

